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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

MEMO TO: Indonesia Desk, DFAT,
Canberra

3 May 1990

RE: Arrests and detentions of East Timorese students in Bali

Sources in Denpasar, Bali, have reported that local police arrested three East Timorese students in Denpasar on Saturday, 28 April 1990.

Those arrested were: Fernao Trinidade
Felisberto Mascarenhas
Mario Trinidade

Mr Ponke Princen, Director of the Institute for the Defence of Human Rights in Jakarta, has confirmed the arrests. Police in Bali informed Mr Princen that they had made the arrests following a student brawl.

Princen alleges that one of the three was beaten unconscious by police while other sources have reported that two of the students were severely beaten giving one broken ribs and causing another to vomit blood.

Why students involved in a brawl should be so badly treated is hard to explain. Their reported subsequent transfer to the control of the military police and then to the military command, Kodim, in Denpasar suggests in fact that the arrests were political in character and related to East Timorese resistance to Indonesia's control of East Timor.

Since their removal to Kodim control, the students have been uncontactable.

The 270 East Timorese students said to be in Bali are reportedly deeply disturbed by the arrests.

Request

That DFAT as a matter of urgency seek to verify these reports and, if confirmed, that urgent attempts be made to establish the whereabouts and welfare of the students, that the Australian Government representative in Bali be instructed to visit the students, and that the Indonesian authorities be urged to grant them full access by independent legal counsel, friends and doctors and to either charge the students or release them immediately.

Pat Walsh

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